



**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS**  
**The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of**  
**Homeland Security and Emergency Management**  
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Dawn breaks over the Piscataqua River on June 17 with the center section of the new Memorial Bridge in place. The new bridge is expected to be opened to traffic in July.

N.H. DOT photo

**MEMORIAL BRIDGE CENTER SECTION INSTALLED** – The new Memorial Bridge, spanning the Piscataqua River from Downtown Portsmouth to Kittery, Maine, is on track to be opened to traffic in mid-July after its center section was floated into position on June 17. The section, which was assembled at the State Pier, was transported into position by a barge in the middle of the night to take advantage of the slack outgoing tide.

The original 1923 Memorial Bridge was closed to traffic on July 28, 2011, and disassembled to make way for the new structure. The project is expected to cost nearly \$89 million.

**SURVEY FINDS NE COASTAL RESIDENTS UNPREPARED FOR HURRICANES** – A survey of coastal residents shows that New Englanders are the least concerned and among the least prepared for hurricanes and coastal flooding among coastal counties along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The survey, by the American Red Cross and The Weather Channel, found that 43 percent of New England coastal residents were very or somewhat concerned that they could be in harm's way during a hurricane this year. That compared with 65 percent for Gulf Coast residents, 63 percent for Southern Atlantic counties and 56 percent for residents of New York and New Jersey. Hurricane Sandy last year has apparently prompted more hurricane preparation in New York and New Jersey, which were devastated by the storm. Forty-nine percent of residents surveyed there said they had taken steps to prepare for a hurricane this year. That compares with 27 percent in New England, 21 percent along the Gulf Coast and 22 percent on the South Atlantic Coast.

The survey was taken in early June. It included responses from 1,412 residents of coastal counties from Texas to Maine.

**FIRST TROPICAL STORM TRACKS NE COAST** – Tropical Storm Andrea, the first named storm of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, paid New England a visit June 6-8, but caused no problems in the region before heading for the Canadian Maritimes. It is unusual for a tropical storm to track this far north so early in the season. They usually don't reach New England until August and September. TS Andrea brought several inches of rain, prompting flood watches in all of New Hampshire except Coös County, but no flooding occurred.

**VY EXERCISE SEQUENCE WINDS DOWN** - The Vermont Yankee 2013 Plume Exercise Cycle is almost at an end. With the exception of some "out of sequence" interviews to be conducted by FEMA Region I with special facilities in the VY Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), the roster of drills and exercises has been completed with good results. Major components of the cycle included two combined functional drills and a FEMA graded exercise for the state and local EPZ communities. Also included were practice and graded exercises for the Keene High School Reception Center and the State Transportation Staging Area (STSA) in Swanzey. Some issues needing attention were identified, including communication among various components of the offsite response organization, radiological defense officer performance and evacuation of the Joint Information Center in Brattleboro. Overall, state and local personnel exhibited a high level of effectiveness and efficiency. Thanks to all those who work so hard to ensure a high level of readiness and safety within the State of New Hampshire's two EPZs.

**FEMA RELEASES NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS REPORT** – FEMA and its partners have released the 2013 National Preparedness Report (NPR), an assessment of where the United States stands in reaching its goal of becoming a secure and resilient nation. The report, released on May 30, is the second such annual assessment. The report noted that the nation continues to make progress in cyber-security, recovery and meeting the needs of people with disabilities and access and functional needs.

It also noted the importance of developing public/private sector partnerships in promoting preparedness. The full report is available at: <http://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-report>.

**LIGHTNING THREAT RETURNS WITH SUMMER** – With the return of summer weather people are spending more time outdoors. They are also exposed to an increased danger of lightning strikes. Thus far in 2013 there have been seven lightning fatalities in the U.S., one each in Louisiana, Missouri and Texas and two each in Illinois and Florida. All but one of the victims were involved in some kind of recreational activity. Last year there were 28 lightning fatalities in the U.S., which was considerably below the 1982-2011 average of 54. The greatest number of lightning fatalities occur in July. The National Weather Service warns that anyone who can hear thunder is in danger of being struck by lightning and should go inside a sturdy building as soon as possible.

**DHHS SEEKS FEEDBACK ON SPECIAL NEEDS** - In 2005, the Bureau of Emergency Management (now HSEM) conducted an assessment of the Emergency Preparedness Needs of Special Populations. Over the past eight years, New Hampshire has made great strides in emergency preparedness for and with this population. In July 2012, the Centers for Disease Control awarded the state with a three-year grant on "Disabilities and Public Health". One of the grant's six goals is to "improve emergency preparedness among people with disabilities". The UNH Institute on Disabilities, in collaboration with the N.H. Division of Public Health Services, is gathering information from EMDs and Public Health Networks about their work to date and future priorities. To participate in an online survey on emergency preparedness and the handicapped, go to: [https://chhsunh.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_cG7ev1eeOp8qI5v](https://chhsunh.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cG7ev1eeOp8qI5v). Your feedback is important.

A brief summary of the current findings will be reported at the June 27th Annual State Emergency Preparedness Conference with a final summary in the September HSEM e-newsletter. For more information contact, Carole Totzkay at the DHHS Emergency Services Unit at 271-9452.

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Keep up with emergency preparedness information in New Hampshire on [www.readynh.nh.gov](http://www.readynh.nh.gov) and [Twitter.com/ReadyNH](https://twitter.com/ReadyNH). For information on upcoming training and classes go to: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/training/schedtrdates.html>